

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A scalable edge node that receives content from a Network Operations Center (NOC) via a satellite content distribution network and distributes it via a last mile service provider, the edge node comprising:
 - a variable number of media servers, the ~~number of~~ media servers capable of being ~~changed~~ added or removed during operation, ~~while content is being received~~, to meet changes in demand for data;
 - ~~a load balancer, connected to the variable number of media servers, capable of determining which of the servers connected to it is best able to meet a user's request for content;~~
 - a shared storage device connected to the media servers;
 - a private Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) that receives content from the NOC over the satellite content distribution network and distributes it to the shared storage device, the private VLAN connected to the media servers and comprising a receiving router, ~~a receiver, a demodulator, and a controller gateway~~,
 - a public VLAN comprising an outbound router connected to the media servers for transmitting content to the last mile service provider, ~~and a load balancer, connected to the variable number of media servers, capable of determining which of the servers connected to it is best able to meet a user's request for content;~~
 - a firewall; and
 - where the outbound router and load balancer comprise a public VLAN, and the firewall connects both the public and private VLANs.

2. (Previously presented) The edge node of claim 1, where the media servers, the load balancer, the shared storage device, the private VLAN, the outbound router, and the firewall are enclosed in a single equipment rack.

3. (Currently amended) A method for using a number of media servers installed in an edge node to distribute content, received from a Network Operations Center (NOC) through a satellite content distribution network, to a number of users via a last mile service provider, comprising:

receiving content from the NOC via a private Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) comprising a receiving router and a controller and connected to the media servers;

distributing the content to a shared storage device connected to the media servers;

receiving requests for the content from some or all of the users;
during edge node operation, adding or removing media ~~altering the number of~~ servers installed in the edge node based on the number of users from whom the requests for content are received;

using a load balancer to ascertain the number of servers presently installed in the edge node;

using the load balancer to determine which of the servers are best able to meet the requests; and

using the determined servers to meet the requests; and

transmitting the content to the last mile service provider via a public VLAN comprising an outbound router connected to the media servers and the load balancer.

4. (New) The edge node of claim 1 where the controller is configured to process the content received by the private VLAN.

5. (New) The edge node of claim 1 where the controller is configured to execute commands received from the NOC.

6. (New) The edge node of claim 1 where the controller is configured to position content on the edge node.